

11490  
Wyoming Area School District  
Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education  
252 Memorial Street, Pennsylvania, 18643  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Wyoming Area Board of Education was held this evening in the Secondary Center auditorium, 252 Memorial Street, Exeter, Pennsylvania, 18643. Approximately thirty people of the public were in attendance. A non-public executive session preceded the meeting. Mrs. Mara Valenti, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mrs. Valenti asked for roll call.

Roll Call:

- Mrs. Mara Valenti, President
- Mr. David Alberigi, Secretary
- Mr. Joseph Kopko, Treasurer
- Mr. Anthony Burke
- Mr. Peter Butera
- Mr. Philip Campenni
- Mrs. Erica Gazda
- Mr. Michael Kachmarsky
- Mrs. Kirby Kunkle

Also present were: Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, Attorney Jarrett J. Ferentino, Solicitor, Mr. Thomas Melone, Business Consultant, Greg Riley, Secondary Center Building Principal, Dave Pacchioni, Kindergarten Center Building Principal, William Wright, Primary Center Building Principal, Brian Strazdus, Intermediate Center Building Principal, Jason Jones, Technology Director, Ella Keefer and Kennedy Debo, Student Representatives.

Communications Report

Mr. Alberigi read additions to the Communications Report.

1. Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 submitting their meeting minutes of December 17, 2025.
2. West Side Career and Technology Center Joint Operating Committee submitting their reorganization meeting minutes of December 18, 2025.
3. Ballot received by the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 for Wyoming Area Board Members to elect an official to the LIU Board.
4. Carolyn Galenty, Wyoming Area Girls Softball Parents Association, requesting permission to hold fundraisers.
5. Attorney Laura Dennis-Bovani and Jaimie Truszkowski, Special Olympics Northeast Region, requesting permission for use of the pool.
6. Kelly Bone, Tiny Learners Learning Center, requesting permission to rent Wyoming Area facilities to hold their Spring Show.
7. Employee #4350 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
8. Kim Gittens, Wyoming Area Intermediate Center PTO, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
9. Wyoming Area Foundation requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
10. Employee #20762 submitting a letter of resignation.
11. Employee #20535 requesting permission to take an intermittent leave without pay.

12. Employee #13456 requesting permission to extend a medical leave of absence.
13. Laura Johnson, Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18, requesting permission to use kindergarten facilities for Extended School Year program.
14. Right to Know Request submitted for information regarding a merger of 6<sup>th</sup> grade to the Secondary Center.
15. Rachael Seamans, Wyoming Area Drama Boosters, requesting permission to hold a fundraiser.
16. Right to Know Request submitted for information relating to any leaks and/or mold issues at the Intermediate Center.
17. Employee #7158 submitting a letter of resignation.
18. Employee #20044 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.
19. Employee #7125 requesting permission to take a medical leave of absence.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Valenti asked for approval for the minutes of combined meeting of January 21, 2026. All board members voted aye.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollard read his report.

1. **Students from the gifted program attended a field trip to the Everhart Museum in Scranton to see the traveling Hubble Space Telescope Exhibit. They also had a guided tour of the natural history, art and railroad galleries. Attendees were Sophia Tang, Gavin Smith-Kroznuski, Simon Pollard, Hugh Doran, Leo Seamans. Mrs. Leandri is the gifted teacher.**





## 2. Geometry in Kindergarten:

Students have been learning about geometric shapes in this math chapter. They have identified basic two-dimensional shapes—square, rectangle, triangle, and circle—as well as three-dimensional shapes, including cube, rectangular prism, pyramid, and sphere. In addition, students explored the attributes of shapes, such as faces, sides, and angles.

As an extension activity, students worked collaboratively to construct various shapes. Each group received a card displaying a specific shape and used toothpicks and marshmallows to build a model. They began by creating basic 2-D shapes and then progressed to more complex 3-D figures. Students were encouraged to problem-solve together and support one another before seeking assistance from an adult. As a final challenge, students were asked to construct a hexaprism.





- 3. The Wyoming Area School District faculty and staff recently had the privilege of hearing a powerful presentation on Autism Awareness and Acceptance by Ben Hartranft. He provided meaningful insight into how educators can better understand, support, and empower students on the autism spectrum. His message highlighted the importance of inclusion, empathy, and fostering learning environments where every student feels valued, respected, and understood. The presentation was both inspiring and informative, leaving a lasting impact on our staff. We look forward to welcoming Ben back for another engaging session in the future.**

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4. The Kindergarten Center celebrated the 100th Day of School on Thursday, February 5th, with a variety of fun and engaging activities. Students dressed as if they were 100 years old and created shirts featuring 100 items. They participated in 100 calisthenics exercises, flipped a coin 100 times and graphed the results to determine heads or tails, and even made 100 Fruit Loop necklaces.





5. Several of our gifted students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades attended a field trip to the F. M. Kirby Center on February 19th to see the "Secrets of Space" presentation. Mrs. Leandri is the gifted teacher.



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6. **During the month of February (Black History Month) the Third Grade students at the Primary Center studied the importance of music in the lives of the slaves. Students watched a short PBS documentary which introduced the song Follow the Drinking Gourd, a 19th century American folk song that contained coded information for enslaved people to follow the Big Dipper constellation to a path to the North and ultimately freedom. Students listened to another song, Wade in the Water, the 19th century African American spiritual which in addition to being a religious song, was also a coded message to escaping slaves to reach the Underground Railroad. Presentation was led by music teacher Miss Sperrazza.**
  
7. **To help celebrate the 100th day of school, the Primary Center conducted a collection of items for Blue Chip Animal Refuge. Our goal was to collect 100 items per class. We collected over 1,000. Thank you to our students and families for your donations. Thank you Mrs. DeMichele for leading the way.**



8. **Kindergarten registration for the 2026–2027 school year will be held on March 4, 2026. Registration will take place at the Kindergarten Center, located at 50 Penn Ave., Exeter, PA. All information can be found on our district website.**

#### Solicitor's Report

Attorney Ferentino reported the board met in executive session this evening and last week, February 17<sup>th</sup>. They discussed ongoing negotiations with our police department, some litigation matters involving special education and some personnel matters

#### Student Representative's Report

Ella Keefer, Junior Class, reported they hosted our annual junior semi on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Banks in Pittston. They are now joining with the senior class officers completing fundraisers for the junior senior fund this Spring.

Kennedy Debo, Senior Class, reported the prom was decided and will be Midnight's in Maui. The senior fundraiser will be cheese cakes.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kopko read the Treasurer's Report.

Peoples Security Bank & Trust	General Fund	11,044,966.69
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Payroll Account	7,336.57
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Cafeteria Account	292,003.12
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Student Activities Account	154,639.49
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Athletic Fund Account	8,568.42
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Purchasing Account	500.65
Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	General Fund Account	154,798.80
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Series 2022 GON Account	68,941.55
Peoples Security Bank & Trust	Money Market Account	2,069,191.15

The Treasurer's Report will be kept on file for audit.

Finance Report

Mr. Butera read additions to the Finance Report.

1. Received the following checks:

<u>Berkheimer Income Tax</u>	
Earned Income Tax	122,132.29
Local Services Tax	848.89
Per Capita Tax	811.81
Delinquent Per Capita	<u>3,077.15</u>
Total:	126,870.14
<u>2025 Real Estate Taxes</u>	
Wayman Smith, Exeter Twp., Luzerne County	40,364.92
<u>State &amp; Federal Subsidy Payments</u>	
Title I – Improving Basic Programs	57,262.07
Title II – Improving Teacher Quality	7,114.71

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Title IV – Student Support & Academic Enrichment	3,864.64
School District Special Education	338,986.00
PA Cyber CS December 25-26	<u>(137,214.17)</u>
Total:	544,441.59

In Lieu of Taxes

Housing Authority of the County of Luzerne	2,370.85
Housing Authority of the County of Wyoming	<u>770.50</u>
Total:	3,141.35

Local Realty Transfer Tax

Wyoming County	154.35
Luzerne County	<u>22,020.55</u>
Total:	22,174.90

2. Approve the February payment of \$89,723.85 to the Luzerne Intermediate Unit in accordance with the terms of the approved contract for Special Education Services and other related services for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. Approve to ratify the February payment of \$68,161.62 to the West Side Career & Technology Center for the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Approve the Resolution for the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 General Operating Budget for the years 2026-2027.
5. Approve the following refunds for paid property taxes for the year 2025:

17-B10-00A-44D-000	1,590.81
17-D10-00A-027-000	1,650.60
17-C10-00A-82B-000	309.62
17-C11S3-002-030-000	<u>280.35</u>
Total:	3,831.38

6. Approve the Credit Adjustments effective February 1, 2026.

Name		From	To	Step	Increase
BALUCHA	KERIANN	M+24	M+30	7	\$ 874.00
EVANS	BRANDI	M+24	M+36	10	\$ 2,361.00
SLACK	KAILA	M+06	M+12	7	\$ 876.00
TOTAL					<u>\$ 4,111.00</u>

7. Approve the Tuition Reimbursements for February 2026.

AMOUNT TO BE REIMBURSED		
BALUCHA	KERIANN	\$600.00
DILEO	NICOLE	\$300.00
EVANS	BRANDI	\$900.00
FASCIANA	AMANDA	\$1,500.00
SANTEY	KRISTEN	\$331.00
SLACK	KAILA	\$600.00
		<u>\$4,231.00</u>

8. Approve the payment of \$4,200.00 to Pennoni Associates for services rendered through February 1, 2026.
9. Approve the appointment of Golden Photo Studio as the Official Yearbook Photography Studio for the 2026-2027 school year.
10. Approve a Resolution that the Wyoming Area School District of Luzerne County hereby request a Public School Facility Improvement grant of \$2,936,878.31 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for facilities upgrades.
11. Approve to ratify the following payments:

Bluum USA	Invoice #1074096	11,113.00	Sec. Ctr.	Newline Panels
Action Lift	Invoice #EI6852	<u>8,852.45</u>	Sec. Ctr.	Skyjack Scissor Lift
		Total:		19,965.45

12. Approve the following payments:

PA Paper & Supply	Inv. #S1606684.001	7,621.80	Sec. Ctr.	Desks
Uline	Inv.#203186062	830.04	Sec. Ctr.	Portable Folding Security Gate
Uline	Inv. #200849573	2,108.18	Sec. Ctr.	Security Gates
Rock Street Music	Inv. #04/29/15	<u>20,322.19</u>	Sec. Ctr.	Gym Sound System
		Total:		30,882.21

13. Approve the general ledger sheet:

Bill Listing: February 2026	929,118.41	
Prepays: January 2026	<u>151,106.43</u>	1,080,224.84
Cafeteria Account:	48,113.02	
Athletic Account:	<u>9,452.22</u>	<u>57,565.24</u>
Total:		1,137,790.08

Motion by Mr. Butera, second by Mr. Campenni, to accept the finance report.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mrs. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Education Report

Mrs. Gazda read additions to the Education Report.

1. Reporting as per Federal Regulations Requirement that the District’s Federal Programs (Title I, Title II, Title III and Title IV) have been planned for the 2025-2026 school year. Anyone desiring information regarding these programs, contact Dr. Jon Pollard, Superintendent, at the District’s Business Office.
2. Approve Keriann Balucha for tenure having completed three years of satisfactory service as a temporary professional employee.

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3. Approve the step placement of temporary professional employee, Melanie Tunaitis, at Masters, Step 4, \$53,237.00, (pro-rated according to start date).
4. Approve the step placement of long term substitute, Lauren Minor, at Bachelors, Step 4, \$42,638.00, retroactive to September 18, 2025 (pro-rated according to duration of assignment).
5. Approve the appointment of Alexandria Arndt as long term substitute retroactive to September 10, 2025 through the end of the 2025-2026 school year, at the step placement at Bachelors, Step 6, \$45,869.00, (pro-rated according to duration of assignment).
6. Approve to rescind the appointment of Jessica Podskoch as Special Education Teacher.
7. Approve the appointment of Lauren Ricapito as Special Education Teacher.
8. Approve the grade reconfiguration changes for the following schools: Secondary Center grades 9 through 12 for high school, middle school 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades for the 2026-2027 school year. The Intermediate Center will house grades 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.
9. Approve the request of employee #7125 to take a medical leave of absence retroactive to January 21, 2026 to the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion by Mrs. Gazda, second by Mr. Kopko, to accept the education report.

On the Question: Crystal Smith, Exeter, commented with the process and time regarding moving 6<sup>th</sup> grade to the Secondary Center.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mrs. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

#### Activities Report

Mrs. Kunkle read additions to the Activities Report.

1. Approve the request of Kim Gittens, Wyoming Area Intermediate Center PTO, to hold a Spring Apparel Sale starting Monday, March 2, 2026 through Monday, March 23, 2026.
2. Approve the request of Carolyn Galenty, Wyoming Area Girls Softball Parents Association, to hold the following fundraisers:
  - Bagging Groceries at Gerrity's West Pittston – 4/12/26, 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
  - Mother's Day Purse Raffle on Mondays, April 13<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup> and April 27, 2026.
  - Car Wash at A&A- 4/26/26, 10 p.m. to 2 p.m.
3. Approve the request of the Wyoming Area Foundation to hold a Rummage Sale on June 12<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup> and June 14, 2026.
4. Approve the request of Rachael Seamans, Wyoming Area Drama Boosters, to hold an online apparel sale on February 23, 2026 to March 23, 2026.

5. Approve the appointments of the following volunteer/assistant coaches/head coach for the 2025-2026 Spring sports season:

Track & Field

Frank Braccini Junior High Coach  
Rocco Pizano Volunteer

Softball

Maggie Hallman Junior High Assistant  
Morgan Slusser Junior High Volunteer

Baseball

Caleb Graham Varsity Volunteer  
Steve Mytych, Sr. 7/8 Coach  
Jack Long Junior High Coach (pending clearances)

Boys/Girls Lacrosse

Mason Byers Volunteer Coach  
Carl DeLuca Volunteer Coach

Boys/Girls Lacrosse (continued)

Lindo Sabatini Volunteer Coach  
Elizabeth Poor Volunteer Coach

Head Girls Lacrosse Coach

Ira Staff

Motion by Mrs. Kunkle, second by Mr. Campenni, to accept the activities report.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mrs. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Building Report

Mr. Campenni read additions to the Building Report.

1. Approve the request of Kelly Bone, Tiny Learners Learning Center, to rent Wyoming Area facilities for their Spring Show. Date and building to be announced, pending approval by the building principal.
2. Approve the request of Attorney Laura Dennis-Bovani and Jaimie Truskowski, Special Olympics Northeast Region, for use of the pool for Special Olympics swim practices on eleven Mondays starting March 2, 2026, from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m., pending approval by the building principal, athletic director and solicitor. The rental fee will be waived.
3. Approve the request of employee #4350 to take a medical leave of absence retroactive to February 1, 2026 with an intent to return on March 16, 2026.
4. Accept, with regret, employee #20762 letter of resignation retroactive to February 2, 2026.

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5. Approve the request of employee #20535 to take a medical leave without pay retroactive to January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026 with the expectation to return to position for the 2026-2027 school year.
6. Approve the request of employee #13456 to extend a medical leave of absence through the 2025-2026 school year with the expectation to return to position for the 2026-2027 school year.
7. Approve the request of Laura Johnson, Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18, to use the kindergarten cafeteria, class rooms and playground for Extended School Year (ESY) program on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays starting June 30, 2026 through August 6, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., pending approval by the building principal.
8. Accept, with regret, a letter of resignation from employee #7158 retroactive to February 13, 2026.
9. Approve the revised support personnel substitute list for 2025-2026 school year.
10. Approve the appointment of Nancy Turner for 3 hour food service position.
11. Approve the appointment of Anna Rose Strzelczyk as a ten month cleaner.

At this time, Mr. Campenni motioned to table item #12, second by Mr. Alberigi.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mrs. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

12. Approve the appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ as a ten month cleaner. TABLED.
13. Approve the request of employee #20044 to take a medical leave of absence beginning March 20, 2026 through June 3, 2026.

Motion by Mr. Campenni, second by Mr. Kopko, to accept the building report.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, no on item #7 and yes on remaining report. Mr. Burke, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mrs. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

#### Policy Report

Mr. Kachmarsky stated there were no additions to policy report.

1. Approve the second reading of Volume VI revised policies:

- Policy #204 Attendance
- Policy #218.1 Weapons
- Policy #610 Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
- Policy #611 Purchases Budgeted
- Attachment to 626 – Procurement Federal Programs
- Policy #805.1 Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
- Policy #805.2 School Security Personnel
- SAFE2SAY Procedures

Motion by Mr. Kachmarsky, second by Mr. Campenni, to accept the policy report.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mrs. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Bids Report

Mr. Alberigi read the Bids Report.

Request for proposals for Environmental Controls, Building Automation, and Mechanical Maintenance & Repairs Services were advertised on the following dates:

Times Leader/Citizens Voice

- Friday, January 23, 2026
- Friday, January 30, 2026
- Friday, February 6, 2026

The opening was Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

Successful Bidder(s)

H&G Mechanical partnering with CP3 Energy Systems.

Motion by Mr. Alberigi second by Mr. Campenni, to accept the bids report.

Roll Call: Mr. Kachmarsky, yes, Mr. Burke, yes, Mr. Campenni, yes, Mrs. Kunkle, yes, Mrs. Gazda, yes, Mrs. Kopko, yes, Mr. Butera, yes, Mrs. Valenti, yes, Mr. Alberigi, yes.

Motion passed.

Police Report

Mr. Kopko read the Police Report.

**Wyoming Area Police Department  
Monthly Report for January 2026  
Total Calls for Service**

<u>CODE</u>	<u>COUNT</u>
0002 Transport	1
0294 Childline 104	1
0452 Threat Assessment	1
1440 Criminal Mischief – All Other	1
2400 Disorderly Conduct	3
2450 Harassment	1
3400 Mental Health	2
3900 Traffic & Parking Problems	1
4090 Non-Criminal – Reports	3
7505 Assist Other Agencies – WARP	1
7506 Assisting Other Agencies – All Others	1
S2S Safe-2-Say Reports	10
TRUA Compulsory School Attendance	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>

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There was no open discussion.

Motion by Mrs. Valenti to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Alberigi.

To listen to the meeting in its entirety, log on to the YouTube Channel on the Wyoming Area School District's website.

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Mara Valenti, President

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David Alberigi, Secretary